

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045327

47

ORIGIN CEQ-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-05 AID-05 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-11 L-03

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02

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DRAFTED BY CEQ:JMANDROS

APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:LGRANT

OES/ENP:JGBURKE

EA/IMS:W SHEPARD

FWS - T. STRIEGLER

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R 251711Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A - TAGS: SENV, SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE FOLLOW-UP TO CEQ CHAIRMAN PETERSON

VISIT RE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION AND

TRANSSHIPMENT OF WILDLIFE

REF: SINGAPORE 0517

1. DEPARTMENT AND CEQ COMMEND EMBASSY INITIATIVE PARA 5

REFTEL, PROPOSING REPRESENTATION TO GOS AUTHORITIES

REGARDING ISSUE OF TRANSSHIPMENT OF WILDLIFE, INCLUDING

ENDANGERED SPECIES. APPROACH MADE DURING PETERSON/

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 045327

TALBOT VISIT PROVIDES USEFUL FOLLOW-UP OPPORTUNITY TO

STRESS IMPORTANCE OF GOS RATIFICATION THIS IMPORTANT U.S. INITIATED CONVENTION. DEPARTMENT DEFERS TO EMBASSY AS TO LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AT THIS TIME BUT WOULD LIKE TO STRESS TO THE GOS THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. PLACES ON GOS AND OTHERS SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THE CONVENTION STANDS.

2. DR. TALBOT AT CEQ PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND WHICH MAY BE USEFUL IN PREPARING EMBASSY PRESENTATION TO GOS AUTHORITIES: ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION (TEXT BEING AIRSHIPPED) REQUIRES RATIFYING STATES TO ESTABLISH BOTH MANAGEMENT AND SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY, TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION ON SPECIES

(ANIMAL AND PLANT) BEING SHIPPED -- I.E. IMPORTED, EXPORTED OR TRANSSHIPPED. SPECIES LISTED APPENDIX 1 ARE PROHIBITED FROM MOST TRADE; THOSE IN APPENDIX 2 REQUIRE PERMIT "ACCOUNTING," HENCE THE PERMITS, ETC.

3. INFORMATION RECEIVED BY CEQ INDICATES THAT SINGAPORE AUTHORITIES IN THE PAST REPORTEDLY SAID THEY LACKED EXPERTISE OR TIME TO DEVELOP THE NECESSARY "AUTHORITIES" AND PERMIT ORGANIZATION. UNLESS THEY DO SO, MUCH OF THEIR TRADE IN ANIMALS, ANIMAL PARTS AND PRODUCTS WILL BE STOPPED, SINCE NATIONS WHICH HAVE RATIFIED THE CONVENTION AGREE NOT TO IMPORT OR OTHERWISE TRADE SPECIES WITH NON-RATIFYING STATES UNLESS THEY PROVIDE FOR SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME CERTIFICATION REQUIRED BY THE CONVENTION.

4. THE ISSUE AT HAND IS THAT OF SINGAPORE SERVING AS A TRANSSHIPMENT POINT FOR ENDANGERED OR RARE SPECIES WHICH ARE OFTEN OBTAINED ILLEGALLY FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND "LAUNDERED" THROUGH SINGAPORE. THE U.S. HAS BEEN A MAJOR BUYER OF THESE. MOST ARE EITHER ON APPENDIX 1 OR 2. CONSEQUENTLY, UNLESS SINGAPORE ADHERES TO THE CONVENTION OR ESTABLISHES SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR PERMIT ARRANGEMENTS, HER ANIMAL, ANIMAL PARTS AND PRODUCTS TRADE IN SPECIES COVERED BY THE CONVENTION WITH THE U.S. AND OTHER RATIFYING STATES

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 045327

WILL COME TO A HALT.

5. COMMENT: SINGAPORE HAS PROFESSEDLY BEEN TRYING TO CURB SMUGGLING, ALTHOUGH CEQ IS AWARE OF ADVERTISEMENTS FROM SINGAPORE ANIMAL DEALERS (AS RECENT AS SUMMER 1975) CONTINUING TO OFFER ILLEGAL ANIMALS FOR SALE. GOS RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE SINGAPORE'S IMAGE WITH INTERNATIONAL

CONSERVATION AS WELL AS TRADE AUTHORITIES. RATIFICATION
WOULD ALSO PROVIDE GOS AUTHORITIES WITH NECESSARY
BASIS TO CURB SMUGGLING SINCE HER OFFICIALS HAVE
REPORTEDLY SAID THEY ARE DOING THEIR UTMOST WITHIN
THEIR PRESENT SCOPE OF AUTHORITY TO CONTROL SMUGGLING
VIA ILLEGAL TRANSSHIPMENT. IN SUM, THE CONVENTION
WOULD REQUIRE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE AUTHORITY AND
MECHANISMS THROUGH PERMITS, ETC. TO ENFORCE ITS
PROVISIONS, THUS PROVIDING GOS A RESPECTABLE SOLUTION
TO WHAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REMAIN AN UGLY INTERNATIONAL
ISSUE WHICH COULD BE OF EVEN GREATER EMBARRASSMENT TO
THE GOS IN FUTURE. END COMMENT. DEPARTMENT OF
INTERIOR MESSAGE TREATING "LAUNDERING" PROBLEM
FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. KISSINGER

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